

# CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY

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## **Westly Opens Stem Cell Meeting With Oversight Call**

*Controller Proposes Ongoing Performance Audits, "Sunshine" on Royalties and Revenue*

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly today convened the inaugural meeting of the panel governing stem cell research in California by calling for ongoing performance audits and for publicly disclosing royalty payments from research.

Westly, who also will chair the Financial Accountability Oversight Committee created under Proposition 71, called for the panel to meet early next year to set audit standards and recommend other practices to ensure accountability.

"Voters made a bold statement by approving the stem cell bond measure. The eyes of the world are on California," Westly said. "We have to set high standards for oversight and accountability, both to protect the promise of stem cell research and to be sure taxpayers get a fair return on their investment."

Controller Westly said his recommendations go beyond the ballot measure's requirements, including:

- Full-scale performance audits of stem cell expenditures.
- Annual public reports on jobs created, tax revenues collected and health care savings due to stem cell research.
- Public disclosure of royalty and revenue sharing for intellectual property developed with public research funds.

Westly outlined his proposals in a letter to members of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Committee will direct the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine established by Proposition 71. The Controller earlier appointed five members to the panel, which met for the first time today.

"We've gathered some of California's best and brightest minds to oversee this effort," Westly said. "We need them to adopt accountability standards that build public confidence."

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